

# Partners...

A Newsletter for Partners and Providers of Early Detection Works  
Kansas Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening & Detection  
Program  
April 2004

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## Regional Nurses

### Northeast

Heidi Weicken, BSN  
785-573-6733

### North Central

Lynette Blomberg, RN  
785-452-6361

### South Central

Sherry Haworth, BSN  
316-660-7332

### Southeast

Paula Gilmore, RN  
620-2235-7136

### West

Shelly Nelson, BSN  
620-275-5302

## Early Detection Works

Toll-free Hotline  
1-877-277-1368

## Director's Message...

We had a wonderful Cancer Partners' Conference March 3-4 in Topeka! A special thanks to those who offered to help with details, facilitate sessions and especially those who provided presentations this year. The keynote speaker, Father Nicholas Mezacapa, kept us spellbound with his stories of humor and stories of personal tragedy and challenge. The clinical sessions were overwhelmingly popular and provided an introduction for those new to the Early Detection Works Program, as well as being great refresher for those who have been with the program for many years.

This year's conference was unique in that it combined participating agencies of the Early Detection Works Program with the Kansas Cancer Partnership for plenary sessions and then split into two tracks, one for clinical sessions and the other to begin work on the Kansas Comprehensive Cancer Plan. The Comprehensive Cancer Plan will focus on the continuum of care, from prevention through survivorship and end of life care, for six cancers including breast, cervical, prostate, lung, skin and colorectal. We had ninety participants and were able to provide 10.5 CEUs to those who attended both days of the conference.

Next year, the EDW program will partner with the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation to bring another opportunity to learn and share experiences. As soon as we set the date and location, we'll send a save the date postcard.

As many of you know, the new direct payment system is now operational. Although many providers have chosen to continue the existing process of reimbursing their own subcontractors, many have taken advantage of the new direct payment system and, after a few glitches, it seems to be working very well. Any providers and their subcontractors who are interested in using the new direct payment system are encouraged to contact their regional nurse to complete contract amendments and/or agreements. Direct deposit is also available on request.

We have again submitted our grant proposal to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for program funding for the next year. This year, we believe we will reimburse nearly \$1 million for breast and cervical services, but need your help! To help us achieve our goal of 5,000 women this year, please share information about the EDW program with your patients whether or not they may qualify - their mother, sister or aunt may be eligible for services even if they aren't! We have brochures, table tents and window static decals available. We are excited about the success of the Early Detection Works ad campaign. Please let us know if you need additional materials.

*Janet Neff, Director  
Cancer Prevention and Control Program*

## Race and Ethnicity Data

Recent feedback from the CDC revealed that 7.1% of our client forms are marked “Unknown” in the race/ethnicity categories. This data is very important and **must** be completed. Your help is greatly needed in assuring that this information is complete and correct.

## Factors Associated with Mammograms in Kansas Women

We recently completed the Kansas Women’s Health Survey, a telephone survey of over 2000 Kansas women. Some preliminary results have been interesting for determining the factors associated with cancer screening practices. Among other things, we found that not having a current mammogram (within the past 2 years) was associated with the following factors: 1) Having no personal health care provider, 2) Having no health insurance, 3) Smoking, 4) Lower educational level, 5) Living in a rural county (less than 20 people per square mile), and 6) Not presently married.

Interestingly, while race and ethnicity were somewhat related to current mammograms, the racial differences disappeared after taking into account differences in health insurance, personal health care provider, and socioeconomic status.

Regarding age, we found that women 40-50 and women over 75 were less likely to have a current mammogram. Also, women who were underweight or obese were also less likely to be current.

The findings suggest that, to improve mammography rates in Kansas, an important target group would be younger (40-50), unmarried women of lower educational level who live in rural areas and have no health care provider or insurance. There is also a suggestion that programs to help women quit smoking may help improve the mammogram rates as well.

It is important to note that Early Detection Works cannot pay for mammograms for women over the age of 64. Women ages 40 to 49 qualify for clinical breast exams but not mammograms unless there is a personal or family history of cancer or an abnormality is found upon clinical breast exam. In many cases, however, funds from the Susan G.

Komen Breast Cancer Foundation are available to screen these younger women. Regional nurses can answer questions regarding this availability.

*Dean Samuelson, MD*  
*Research Associate*

### Welcome!

Sherry Haworth has started as the Early Detection Works Regional Nurse/Case Manager for South Central Kansas. She previously worked at Wesley Hospital in the Coronary Intensive Care Unit and has also worked as a Nurse Technician in surgery at Via Christi Regional Medical Center, St. Francis Campus. Prior to that, Sherry was an Emergency Communications Dispatcher for Sedgwick County 911. You can contact Sherry at 316-660-7332. We welcome Sherry to Early Detection Works!

## New Mobile Van Serves SE Kansas

Mt. Carmel Regional Medical Center is one of five sites in the United States to receive funding from the Avon Foundation and CDC to purchase and operate a new mobile mammography van. The 40-foot van, complete with waiting/education area and exam room, will travel 9 counties and reach out to an estimated 6,000 to 7,000 women who do not regularly receive mammograms. Early Detection Works is proud to partner with Mt Carmel to help bring services to women in areas that do not currently have mammography available.

## May is National Melanoma Month

May has been designated as the month to focus attention on skin cancer, melanoma being the most serious type. Risk factors include a large number of abnormal moles, more than 50 ordinary moles, easily burned skin, a personal history of at least one severe, blistering burn, two or more relatives with melanoma, a weakened immune system, and exposure to large amounts of UV radiation from the sun. Exposure to artificial UV radiation, such as tanning booths, also increases the risk of melanoma.

## New Eligibility Guidelines for Early Detection Works

The federal government has announced new figures for poverty levels in the United States. Eligibility for Early Detection Works is based on 250% of poverty level, a very liberal guideline. Please start using these new income guidelines to determine program eligibility. These are more generous than last year's guidelines.

Family Size*	Annual Maximum	Monthly Maximum
1	\$23,275	\$1,940
2	\$31,225	\$2,602
3	\$39,175	\$3,265
4	\$47,125	\$3,927
5	\$55,075	\$4,590

**\*Add an additional \$7,950 for each person.**

## EDW Awards Go to Outstanding Partners

At the March 3 Partners' Conference, Dick Morrissey, Acting Director of Health, presented appreciation awards to four of the outstanding partners of EDW. Awards went to:

**Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation:** Peggy Johnson, Local Grants Chair; Georgia Ellis, Affiliate President, and Terry Burnett, Development Chair, for their support and work to promote screening for Kansas women. They have offered suggestions to EDW on the new ad campaign, and provided funding for women who don't qualify for the EDW program, but need mammograms.

**Cancer Information Service:** Hope Krebill, Partnership Program Coordinator, Sharon Turner, Partnership Program Manager, and Amy Gaier, Project Director, for dedicated participation in the Breast and Cervical Advisory Committee and promotion of the Early Detection Works program through their hotline.

**American Cancer Society:** Deb Parsons, Regional Director, as an active participant on the Breast and Cervical Advisory Committee. The staff of ACS have actively promoted breast cancer awareness and the Early Detection Works program.

**Kansas Foundation for Medical Care:** Diane Bender, Communications and Marketing Specialist, for KFMC's role in the SE Kansas Mammography project working to increase screenings among women with Medicare. Diane has shared her expertise as we have developed the Early Detection Works media campaign.

## Treatment Available for Women Diagnosed with Cancer

On October 24, 2000, President Bill Clinton signed into law the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act which offers women the opportunity to receive treatment for these cancers through their state's Medicaid program.

If a woman is enrolled in EDW, is under the age of 65, has no insurance, and is diagnosed with cancer through EDW, she will receive a medical card. This Medicaid card provides benefits for her health care needs as long as she is in treatment for cancer. Presently, about 60 Kansas women are receiving care because of the Treatment Act and nearly 100 women have been served since October 2001, when this service became available in Kansas.

It is important to understand that treatment is available only to those women eligible, enrolled and screened through EDW who have no insurance coverage. For questions regarding eligibility and treatment contact your Regional Nurse.

We wish to thank the Medicaid staff at the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services for their cooperation and their caring concern in helping women diagnosed through EDW receive the services they need at a difficult time in their lives.

**Attention, Providers: Please remember, payment cannot be made on women with insurance until we receive an explanation of benefits (EOB) from her insurance company! Thank you for your help.**



**Early detection can save your life.**

One out of every eight women will develop breast cancer at some point during her life.

An estimated 4,600 women will die from cervical cancer in the US this year.

**The good news is** routine screening and prompt treatment can reduce deaths from breast and cervical cancer.

**Early detection works.**

**early detection works**

Toll free:  
**1-877-277-1368**  
[www.preventionworkskansas.com](http://www.preventionworkskansas.com)

**Referral Sources  
for  
Early Detection  
Works**

**Self- 4224**  
**Provider - 9329**  
**Other - 3260**  
**Outreach - 4423**  
**Reminder - 2519**  
**Unknown - 667**

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